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BULGARIAN UNIONS SUBORDINATED TO PARTY

The reorganization of Bulgarian trade unions makes them completely subordinate to the okoliya trade-union committees, which, in turn, are supervised by the okoliya committees of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The reorganization followed an inspection tour of Soviet experts and aims at strict policing of the workers.

The main functions of the ckoliya trade-union committees are: surveillance of trade unions in every enterprise, detection of violations and failures in work organization, and reporting these shortcomings to the Central Trade-Union Association. The okoliya soviets receive duplicates of the reports made to the Central Trade Union Association and supervise the activity of the committees with regard to the fulfillment of the Five-Year Flan, brigades, and competitive work. The supervision is carried out by activists inside every enterprise.

A further function of okoliya soviets is setting up monthly days for propaganda, such as Professional Activity Day, Trade Union Day, etc. The ministers of various departments and the directors of large industrial combines are taking an active part in the discussions on trade-union organization, as the present line of politics provides for close collaboration between the government and the trade unions.

The basic function of the present trade unions is seen in "organization according to the production plan." Workers and employees working in enterprises subordinated to a particular ministry and working under the same production plan, must be members of the same trade union, regardless of their personal trade. Thus, for example, on 16 June 1950, the trade unions of the chemical industry were merged with the skin-dressing unions, and the carpenters with the forestry unions, whereas on 17 June, the food-industry trade unions merged with the tobacco-industry unions.

These measures helped to destroy the last vestiges of the Bulgarian tradeunion movement, which is now merely an instrument in the hands of the government and the Communist Party, powerless to defend the interests of the workers.

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